Jan 2021 - Final Public Version Review Email

Subject:

Dear ____,

As we held feedback sessions with DWeb community members over the last several months, we continued to review and revise this document to incorporate people's ideas. We truly appreciate everyone's participation and feedback so far.

We are now happy to share with you the current version of the DWeb Principles!

We will be publishing this along with our new DWeb website, which we will be launching in the beginning of February. Though privately, this is fact version 14 or 15, we will be calling this Version 1.0, as we hope this set of principles will continue to grow and evolve along with our community.

We have two asks:

1) **Please read the DWeb Principles as they stand, and let us know your thoughts about this version.** At this point, we cannot modify it too heavily since it has already gone through many revisions and rounds of feedback from members of our DWeb community, but would like to know if there are any particular points that you fervently agree or disagree with.

2) **Once you have read it, please let us know if we can add your name as someone who has provided input into its development.** Along with these principles, we will add a footnote that declares: "These principles were drafted with input and support from…" followed by the list of contributors.

Here are the DWeb Principles:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VANypoKxRTqdkMI8CGupdB-e_csQdtUwzkBeS_Fe0Gk/edit?usp=sharing

If you need more context about the intention behind these principles, please read our short 2 pager about this project:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZvpfJs12DNjQe88mXBeiHd2xHy_F0Ca3_huPCuETz5o/edit?usp=sharing

Please email us if you have any questions or comments — we would be happy to hear from you!

Regards,

_____

Principles Review - Sep/Oct 2020

Dear ____,

[Briefly introduce yourself]

I'm working with the Internet Archive on their efforts to advance the distributed Web. We have embarked on the project to develop a set of principles to describe the "DWeb" philosophy, and hope these principles will shape expectations, behaviors, and set the bases for mutual accountability within the community of people building the distributed Web.

I'm writing to get your counsel, starting with your input on these principles. As someone who has been closely following [insert their expertise is in internet access issues], we felt that you would be a key person to include in the early phase of this drafting process.

Our ask is simple: please read this document, think about its intent, and offer comments or suggestions. If you have others you think would be a good reviewer, send us their names in the form below.

DWeb Principles Version 6

Why is the Internet Archive leading this effort?

The Internet Archive has been convening DWeb events since 2016, bringing people and organizations together to learn and support each other as we build the Decentralized Web. As one of the largest archives of online knowledge and culture, we have a stake in ensuring that the internet remains free and open beyond the grip of the big, centralized tech monopolies.

At the same time, "decentralization" has grown into such a buzzword across Silicon Valley that it started to lose its meaning. What was also becoming apparent was that the philosophy and ethics of the DWeb movement was ill defined. Could we say that a project is decentralized even if the organization behind the protocol or platform was as centralized, opaque, and

unaccountable as any of the big tech monopolies? If not, what exactly delineates something like Facebook's Libra Coin from Protocol Labs' Filecoin?

It's time for to rethink the Web; it's time for a major paradigm shift. Can you help us determine what it might look like?

Best,
[Name]

P.S. In case you're curious, here are the names of others we are asking for this first round of input:

Brewster Kahle
Nathan Schneider
Zeynep Tufekci
Sol Luca De Tena
Jean Philbert Nsengimana
Jaron Lanier
Judith Donath
Taeyoon Choi
Alex MacGilivray
Aya Miyaguchi

If you can suggest any names of individuals who you think would reach out to, please let us know with this Google form.